

From: Bruce Hoffman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 8:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I received an e-mail note from Microsoft's MSFIN project soliciting any comment to the DOJ on the proposed settlement.

This is the first time I have responded to their efforts to keep the using public informed of the issues facing them and the plaintiffs in this suit.

My opinion is that there were some anti-competitive efforts made by Microsoft that bordered on using their virtual monopoly position in some software for their suppression of potential rivals. Nevertheless, I think their business, which is so very far removed from a commodity business (oil, foodstuffs, wood products, etc.), is so transitory in nature that innovation has to be respected and rewarded as rapidly as possible, since another better solution could emerge in such a short time that market share could mean nothing in the space of a few years.

I also feel that the enactment of the settlement will bring an end to the chill on innovation that the prior administrations very zealous pursuit of this company has blown over the software industry while waiting for a resolution.

Thank you,

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